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AARDVARK-VANAHEIM PRESENTS

CEREBUS

47
FEB

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A Note from the Publisher

FIRST CANADIAN TOUR JULY 1983

Most of the ideas for projects and the juggling of dates comes to me while listening to a little rock-n-roll and trying to relax before going to sleep. Lately, there seems to be a lot of need for that planning. Where six months ago I was bemoaning every weekend that I was bored and wanted something to do, lately I'm finding the pace a bit frantic. Of course, the US Tour took care of any restlessness I had felt at the time. In fact, Dave and I enjoyed our US Tour so much that we have begun planning our 1983 Canadian Tour. So far we have plans to start in Victoria, B.C. on July 1st and move east from there through Vancouver, Edmonton, Calgary, Winnipeg, Hamilton, Toronto, Montreal and Halifax. We will finish the tour on the weekend of July 15-17 at Maplecon 5 in Ottawa.

This month has been a pretty busy one for both Dave and I. Two shops in our area, Now and Then Books and the Silver Snail have moved to larger locations and had signing parties to celebrate their expansions.

At Now & Then Books (in Kitchener) I finally had my chance to talk face to face with Michael T. Gilbert. It's great to find out that someone I've worked to publish who had seemed a terrific fellow over the phone was just as nice in person. I think I'm going to like publishing Strange Brew with Michael. The next one is already in the production stages.

Craig Russell and Richard Pini were there, as well as Arn Saba. Arn has been working quite hard on his book "Neil the Horse, Comics and Stories" since his return to Toronto in December. I have always enjoyed the free and open style he uses for Neil and his friends (especially Mamselle Poupée) and have high hopes for his book. It was rewarding for me to sit and watch people coming up and asking both Arn (in his "Neil" stories in Unique) and Michael T. (in Strange Brew) for autographs. If they got even half the pleasure I did, the efforts put into the work were well worth it. On the whole it was a very enjoyable afternoon. It was a time for people in alternative comics to get together and compare notes. I only wish we could do it more often.

The following weekend we spent in the country with a friend. I must say it was nice to take a breather like that. It turned out that we needed it because the next weekend Dave and Karen (my assistant) and I went up to Toronto for the Silver Snail's grand opening. Chris Claremont and Marshall Rogers were guests there as well, and the store was packed right up until we left for supper around six. Ron VanLeun deserves a great deal of credit for having designed a shop that can be both functional as well as really nice to look at. If you live in the Toronto area I suggest you check it out. The address is on his ad inside the book.

It always seems strange to me that the times we enjoy the most seem to tire me out the most. We both spent the next day sleeping and watching TV, trying to recover.

Considering the plans we have for the Canadian Tour in July, as well as a **very tentative** plan for a European Tour in October, it's no wonder we feel exhausted by the weekend. Do you sometimes get the feeling that Dave and I are a pair of masochists? It certainly helps that we **want** to go out and talk to you. We **want** to know what you're thinking.

Deni

ANNOUNCEMENT

As of now, Aardvark-Vanaheim will be handling subscriptions and single issue orders on all Aardvark-Vanaheim books.

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More information next issue

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CEREBUS

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THE PROFOUND TENDS TO BE UNDERSTANDABLE RATHER THAN EXPLAINABLE AS I'M SURE THE PRIME MINISTER KNOWS ONLY TOO WELL...
WE GLIMPSE THE LARGER, TRUER PICTURE AS THROUGH A VEIL OF GAUZE AND OFTEN MISTAKE THE GAUZE FOR THE PICTURE ITSELF ...
YOU WILL FIND THAT THE PRIME MINISTER'S VIEWS ARE FAR MORE PRAGMATIC...
INDEED?
WHEN ONE IS IN COMMAND OF GREAT FORCES, ONE MUST VIEW THE WORLD IN TERMS OF ADVANTAGE AND DISADVANTAGE
GAUZE AND PICTURES ARE THE STUFF OF PHILOSOPHERS AND...
...FOLLOWERS.
BUT THE INTELLECTUAL REVOLUTION...
...CONTINUES ONLY SO LONG AS CEREBUS HOLDS THE REINS OF POWER...
HE IS THE FOCUS OF THE NEW REPUBLICANISM ...
THOUGH NOT ITS INSTIGATOR YOU MUST ADMIT...

IT COULD BE ARGUED THAT TARIM DIDN'T INSTIGATE THE TARIMIC DISCIPLINES SINCE THE SACRED TEXTS WERE NOT SET DOWN FOR ONE HUNDRED YEARS AFTER HIS DEATH...
...OR HER DEATH?
I'M SORRY.
I DIDN'T MEAN TO PROVOKE YOU...
DON'T WORRY. YOU DIDN'T.
YOUR JOB WILL BE TO WRITE SPEECHES, MANIFESTOS... THAT SORT OF THING. BASICALLY TO KEEP THE REVOLUTION UNITED WITH THIS OFFICE... AND TO HEAD OFF ANY MAJOR DIVISIONS IN THE PARTY...
VERY WELL...
BUT I WARN YOU THAT I DON'T INTEND TO BETRAY MY PRINCIPLES ...
HAD WE INTENDED FOR YOU TO BETRAY YOUR PRINCIPLES, WE WOULD HAVE OFFERED YOU A GOOD DEAL MORE THAN TWENTY CROWNS A WEEK...
WAIT OUTSIDE. I'LL SHOW YOU TO YOUR OFFICE...
I'LL TAKE MY LEAVE, THEN...
...MR. PRIME...
...MINISTER?
HE'S ...UH... MEDITATING ...
I SEE.
CLICK.
WAP
UNH! CEREBUS WAS JUST RESTING HIS EYES!!

behind a desk as Astoria ushered me in. I was introduced as Suenteus Po of Harbourside. The Prime Minister looked startled and seemed to see me for the first time.

"**The** Suenteus Po?", he growled.

I felt myself at a distinct disadvantage.

"**The** Suenteus Po has been dead for over a hundred years, Mr. Prime Minister. Certain of his followers choose to honour his memory by taking his name." Though Astoria addressed the Prime Minister, she continued to stare directly at me.

Feeling my political affiliations to have been thrust into the forefront of the discussion, I hastened to point out that the name was a common one, that I had not chosen it for myself, and that my ideology, in any event, was closer to the mainstream of Iestan life. Astoria took this opportunity to question the sincerity of my convictions. Was it not true that I had only recently converted to the ideals of the New Republicanism?

It should be mentioned, in passing, that the Prime Minister took no part in the interview, himself. Evidently, he was there to judge my debate with Astoria and had decided to weigh the outcome against whatever personal impression I might make. He remained neutral and objective throughout.

Taking up the challenge, I likened my conversion to a sudden and complete awareness of the profound suddenly evident in the commonplace. Astoria asked me to explain what exactly it was that I found to be commonplace in the ideals of the New Republicanism. I tried patiently to illustrate my point: that the profound was unexplainable in

"THE PEOPLE'S MANIFESTO OF DEMANDS!?"
AND THEY HAVE THE NERVE TO SEND THIS TRIPE TO CEREBUS?!
CEREBUS SHOULD HAVE THEM ALL DRAWN AND QUARTERED!!
BY ALL REPORTS THEY'RE NOTHING MORE THAN A FEW MALCONTENTS AT THE NAG'S HEAD...
DON'T MAKE SUCH A FUSS ABOUT IT
CEREBUS DOESN'T CARE WHO THEY ARE ... SOMETHING SHOULD BE DONE ABOUT THEM!!
HSSSSS

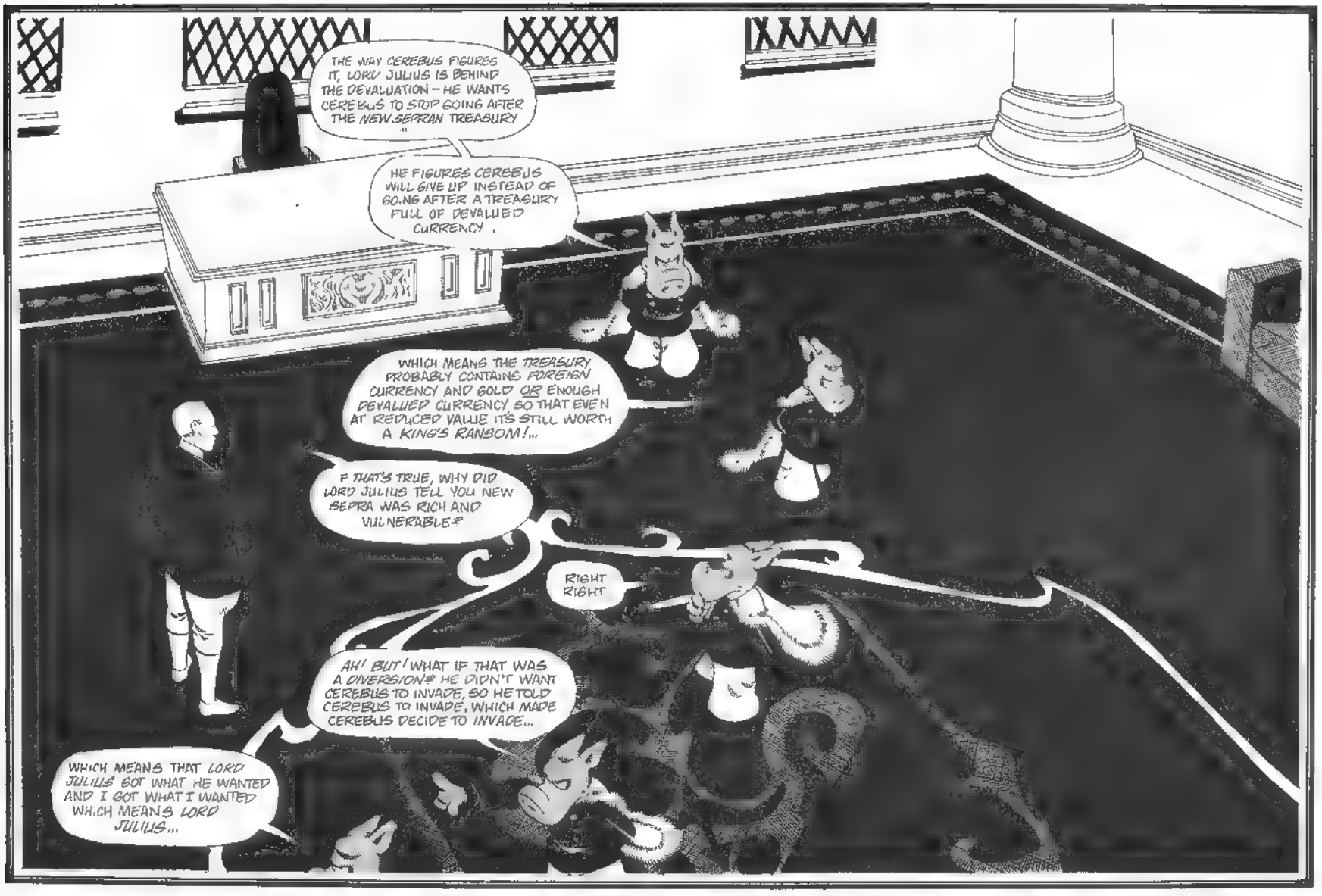
I SAY IT'S TIME FOR A SHOW OF FORCE...
OTHERWISE, HE'LL RUN RIGHT OVER US...
DON'T BE STUPID.
SO HE RAISED TAXES... EVERY PRIME MINISTER RAISES TAXES...
THE DOOR BUCKLES INWARD WITH THE SOUND OF SPLINTERING WOOD
SMASH!!
"I'M SERGEANT PRESTON OF THE NORTHERN TESTAN MOUNTED POLICE" HE ANNOUNCES...
"I DON'T HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO ARREST YOU..."
"SO I'M JUST GOING TO ROUGH YOU UP A BIT, INSTEAD!"
"LOUSY STINKING RADICALS," HE OPINES, "FIGURE THE LAW IS THERE FOR YOU TO HIDE BEHIND..."
"WELL, THE LAW ISN'T THERE FOR YOU TO HIDE BEHIND -- IT'S THERE FOR US TO HIDE BEHIND..."
"THE GOOD AND DECENT LAW-ABIDING PEOPLE OF THIS GREAT CITY-STATE"
HIS FISTS ARE LIKE TWIN SLEDGEHAMMERS DEALING OUT PURE AND RIGHTEOUS JUSTICE...
"YOU'RE EITHER WITH US OR AGAINST US, VERMIN..."
"THAT'S WHAT FREEDOM'S ALL ABOUT"

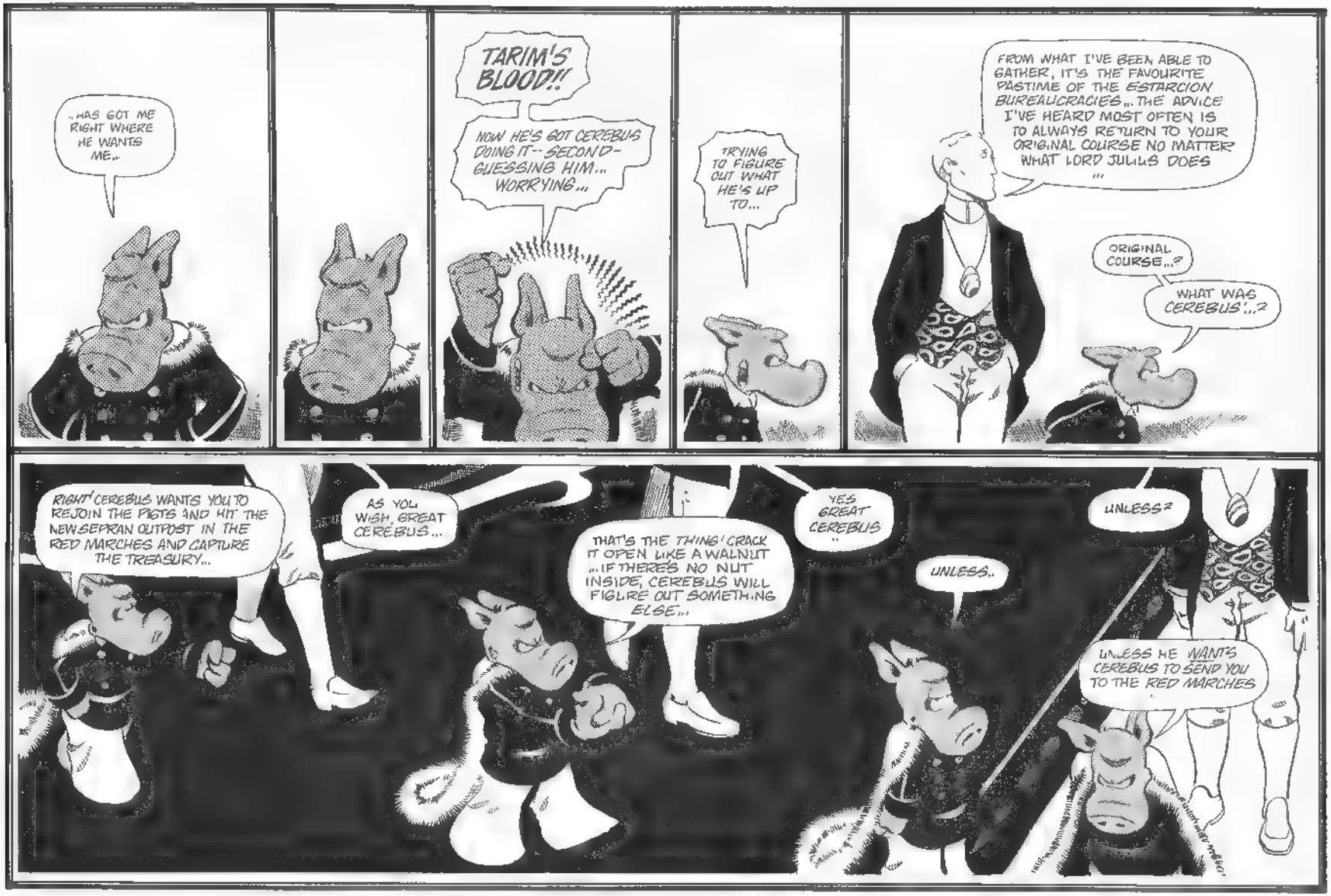
HIS ROACH-SENSE FLOODS THE ROOM...
PING!
PING!
PING!
AND DETECTS THE PRESENCE OF A HEAVILY UNARMED MALCONTENT...
"TASTE BOOT, SCUM..."
LIKE ALL COWARDLY VERMIN SCUM SLIME RAT PUKE, THEY HAVE THE "COURAGE" TO WRITE ABOUT REVOLUTION, BUT WHEN IT COMES DOWN TO DUKING IT OUT...MAN TO MAN...GOOD VERSUS EVIL ...
HE SEIZES THEIR CRAVEN LEADER BY THE TONSILS...
GULK!
AND TOSSES HIM AT ONE OF HIS HALF-WITTED DUPES...
THE FINAL MISCREANT FALLS ...
ONCE MORE HAS BRUTE FORCE AND GOODNESS WON OUT...
OVER WEAKNESS AND EVIL! HSSS!

"THE WEED OF REVOLUTION BEARS BITTER FRUIT."
THE MOON ROACH KNOWS...
HSSSS!
SHHH...
WEEDS AREN'T FRUIT-BEARING ARE THEY?
DON'T PROVOKE HIM...
THERE'S A CHANCE THAT LOWER FELDA IS JUST MAKING A WHOLE LOTTA NOISE ABOUT...
MR. PRIME MINISTER? THERE'S A "MISTER THE ISSHURIAN" HERE TO SEE YOU...
HAVE HIM COME RIGHT IN...

WE CAPTURED THE NEW SEPRAN TREASURY ...
AND...?
EMPTY. THEY'VE MOVED ALL THEIR MONEY BACK TO THEIR RED MARCHES OUTPOST...
SO HOW MUCH IS IT GOING TO COST CEREBUS TO HAVE YOUR MEN GO AND GET IT?
MMM.
ROUGHLY.
ROUGHLY? I'D SAY... ohhh...
THREE MILLION SIX HUNDRED AND EIGHTY FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY NEW SEPRAN CROWNS
CEREBUS THOUGHT IT WAS THREE MILLION SIX HUNDRED AND EIGHTY-FIVE THOUSAND TWO HUNDRED AND SIXTY ONE...
YOU SAID "ROUGHLY"!
MR. PRIME MINISTER... THIS URGENT MESSAGE JUST CAME IN FROM PALNU...
RIP!
WONDERFUL.
WHAT'S IT SAY?

"IN LIGHT OF THE FACT THAT THE GOVERNMENTS OF ESTARCION HAVE BASED THE MARKET VALUE OF THE NEW SEPRAN CROWN ON THE ABILITY OF THE NEW SEPRAN MILITARY FORCES TO HOLD THE BORDERS OF THE DOMINION OF NEW SEPRA SECURE AND UNBREECHED, AND IN LIGHT OF SAID BORDERS BEING VIOLATED WITH DECIDED EASE IN RECENT DAYS BY FORCES UNKNOWN, WE, THE UNDERSIGNED, HEREBY SERVE NOTICE OF THE IMMEDIATE DEVALUATION OF THE NEW SEPRAN CROWN TO ONE-ONE HUNDREDTH OF ITS CURRENT MARKET VALUE..."
"FORCES UNKNOWN"?
CAPTAIN ARNOLD AND HIS ARMPIT AVENGERS ARE "FORCES UNKNOWN"?
SO WHAT KIND OF MILITARY ACTION CAN CEREBUS GET FOR THIRTY-SIX THOUSAND EIGHT HUNDRED AND FIFTY TWO NEWER SEPRAN CROWNS...
A GOOD SNOW-BALL FIGHT IF THEY TRY TO RECAPTURE FORT CHICOLINI...
HAVE YOUR MEN SIT TIGHT... CEREBUS WILL GET BACK TO YOU...
OKEY-DOKEY

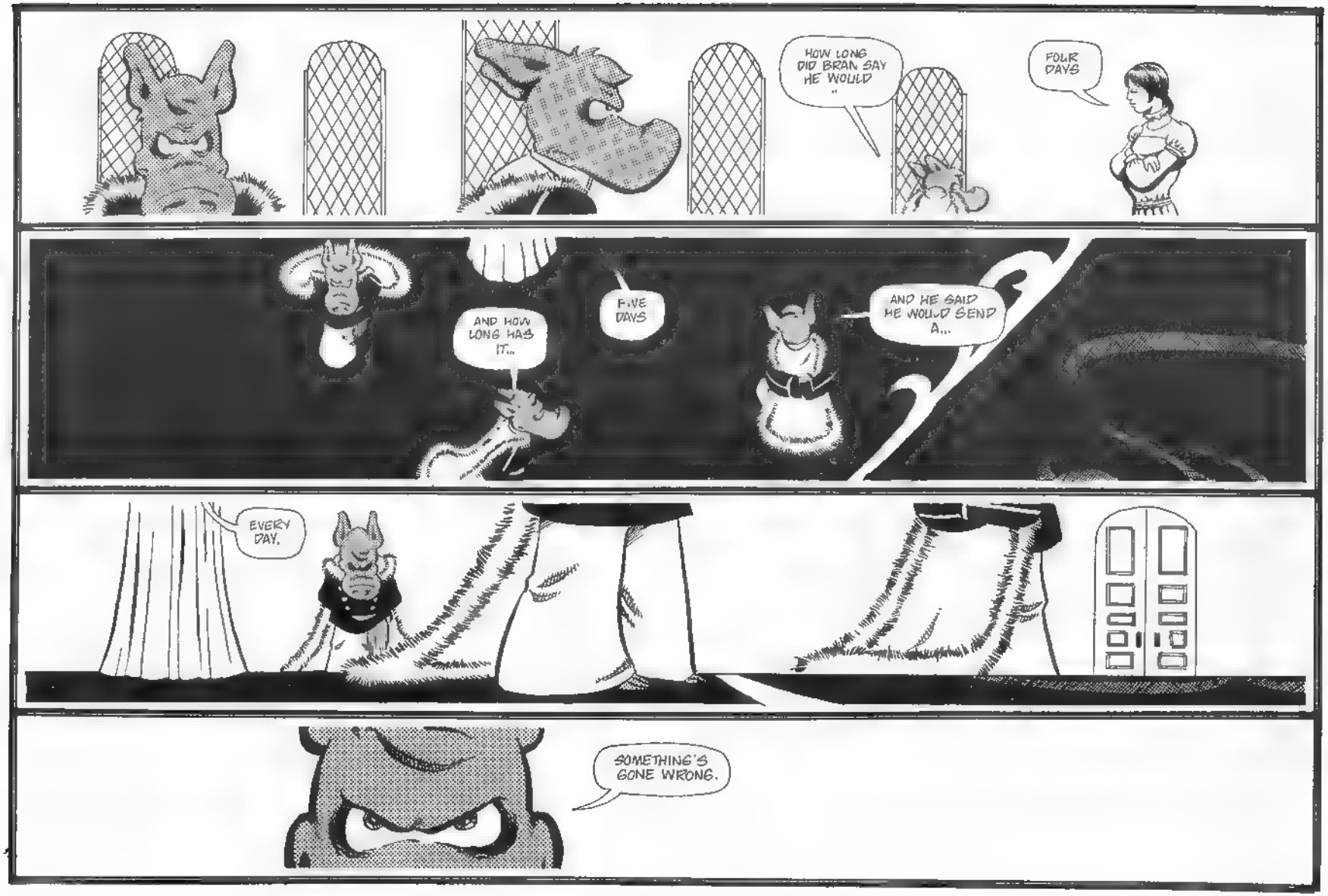

THE WAY CEREBUS FIGURES IT, LORD JULIUS IS BEHIND THE DEVALUATION -- HE WANTS CEREBUS TO STOP GOING AFTER THE NEW SEPRAN TREASURY
HE FIGURES CEREBUS WILL GIVE UP INSTEAD OF GOING AFTER A TREASURY FULL OF DEVALUED CURRENCY.
WHICH MEANS THE TREASURY PROBABLY CONTAINS FOREIGN CURRENCY AND GOLD OR ENOUGH DEVALUED CURRENCY, SO THAT EVEN AT REDUCED VALUE IT'S STILL WORTH A KING'S RANSOM!...
IF THAT'S TRUE, WHY DID LORD JULIUS TELL YOU NEW SEPRA WAS RICH AND VULNERABLE?
RIGHT RIGHT
AH! BUT! WHAT IF THAT WAS A DIVERSION? HE DIDN'T WANT CEREBUS TO INVADE, SO HE TOLD CEREBUS TO INVADE, WHICH MADE CEREBUS DECIDE TO INVADE...
WHICH MEANS THAT LORD JULIUS GOT WHAT HE WANTED AND I GOT WHAT I WANTED WHICH MEANS LORD JULIUS...


..HAS GOT ME RIGHT WHERE HE WANTS ME..
TARIM'S BLOOD!!
NOW HE'S GOT CEREBUS DOING IT--SECOND-GUESSING HIM... WORRYING...
TRYING TO FIGURE OUT WHAT HE'S UP TO...
FROM WHAT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO GATHER, IT'S THE FAVOURITE PASTIME OF THE ESTARCION BUREAUCRACIES... THE ADVICE I'VE HEARD MOST OFTEN IS TO ALWAYS RETURN TO YOUR ORIGINAL COURSE NO MATTER WHAT LORD JULIUS DOES ...
ORIGINAL COURSE...?
WHAT WAS CEREBUS'...?
RIGHT! CEREBUS WANTS YOU TO REJOIN THE PIGTS AND HIT THE NEWSEPRAN OUTPOST IN THE RED MARCHES AND CAPTURE THE TREASURY...
AS YOU WISH, GREAT CEREBUS...
THAT'S THE THING! CRACK IT OPEN LIKE A WALNUT ...IF THERE'S NO NUT INSIDE, CEREBUS WILL FIGURE OUT SOMETHING ELSE...
YES GREAT CEREBUS ..
UNLESS..
UNLESS?
UNLESS HE WANTS CEREBUS TO SEND YOU TO THE RED MARCHES

D'BANK OF IEST HAS T'GET ALONG WIT' D'UDDAH BANKS... WE NEED THEM T'KEEP US AFLOAT...
YOU'RE NOT LISTENING, FILGATE...
CEREBUS JUST WANTS TO KNOW HOW THE SIGNATURE OF THE DIRECTOR OF THE BANK OF IEST GOT ON THIS DEVALUATION NOTICE!!
I'M TRYIN' T'EXPLAIN ... IF WE WUZ T'SAY "NO" T'LOAHD JULIUS HE'D BE APT T' DE-VALYOO OUAH CARRENCY
DAT'S HOW E GOT D'NOO SEPRANS... DEY WOULDN' COO OPERATE ...
IF'N YOU WANT ME TO TELL iM I CANCEL OUAH SUPPORT FOAH D'DEVALYOOATION OF D'NOO SEPRAN CROWN, I WILL ...
BUT AS Y'MINISTUH OF FI-NANCE I WOULD HAVE T'ADVISE DAT YUH TAKE NOTICE OF D'FACT DAT DAT WOULD MAKE D'VOTE FORTY-TWO BANKS T'ONE ...
I MEAN, EVEN D'NOO SEPRANS VOTED F'R IT T'STAY ON LOAHD JULIUS' GOOD SIDE...
OKAY. OKAY
CEREBUS UNDERSTANDS.. YOU'RE ALL AGAINST HIM.. NO ONE .S EVER ON HIS SIDE...
NO ONE...
HSSSSSS

ODD I THOUGHT I SAW A ..
HALT, VILE TRAITOR!!
SMASH
OH, MY ...
YOU WORTHLESS, SCUMMY, VERMINOUS, STOMACH TURNING, ODOUROUS BIT OF USELESS CRUD -- I OUGHT TO GRIND YOU INTO A LITTLE BLACK QUIVERING SPOT ON THE TOP OF THIS CRUMMY DESK...
W-WHO ARE Y-YOU?
A FRIEND!
SEE THIS? THIS IS A LOYALTY OATH SWEARING THAT YOU WILL NEVER EVER DO ANYTHING THE PRIME MINISTER DOESN'T WANT YOU TO DO AND THAT YOU WILL IMMEDIATELY DO ANYTHING THAT HE DOES WANT YOU TO DO!!
YOU CAN EITHER SIGN IT OR EAT IT...!!
I--I'LL SIGN
M... T... HOWE... DI... RECTOR... ...BANK... OF... THAT'S IT...

THAT DOCUMENT WON'T DO THE PRIME MINISTER ANY GOOD -- IT WAS SIGNED UNDER DURESS!
THERE ISN'T A COURT IN THIS CITY-STATE THAT WOULD CONSIDER IT BINDING...!
OF ...MY.... OWN.... FREE ...WILL....WITH ...OUT ... ANY ...THREAT... OF , PHYSICAL ...PHYS .....IC.....AL..... HARM .....SIGNED....


HOW LONG DID BRAN SAY HE WOULD ..
FOUR DAYS
AND HOW LONG HAS IT...
FIVE DAYS
AND HE SAID HE WOULD SEND A...
EVERY DAY.
SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG.

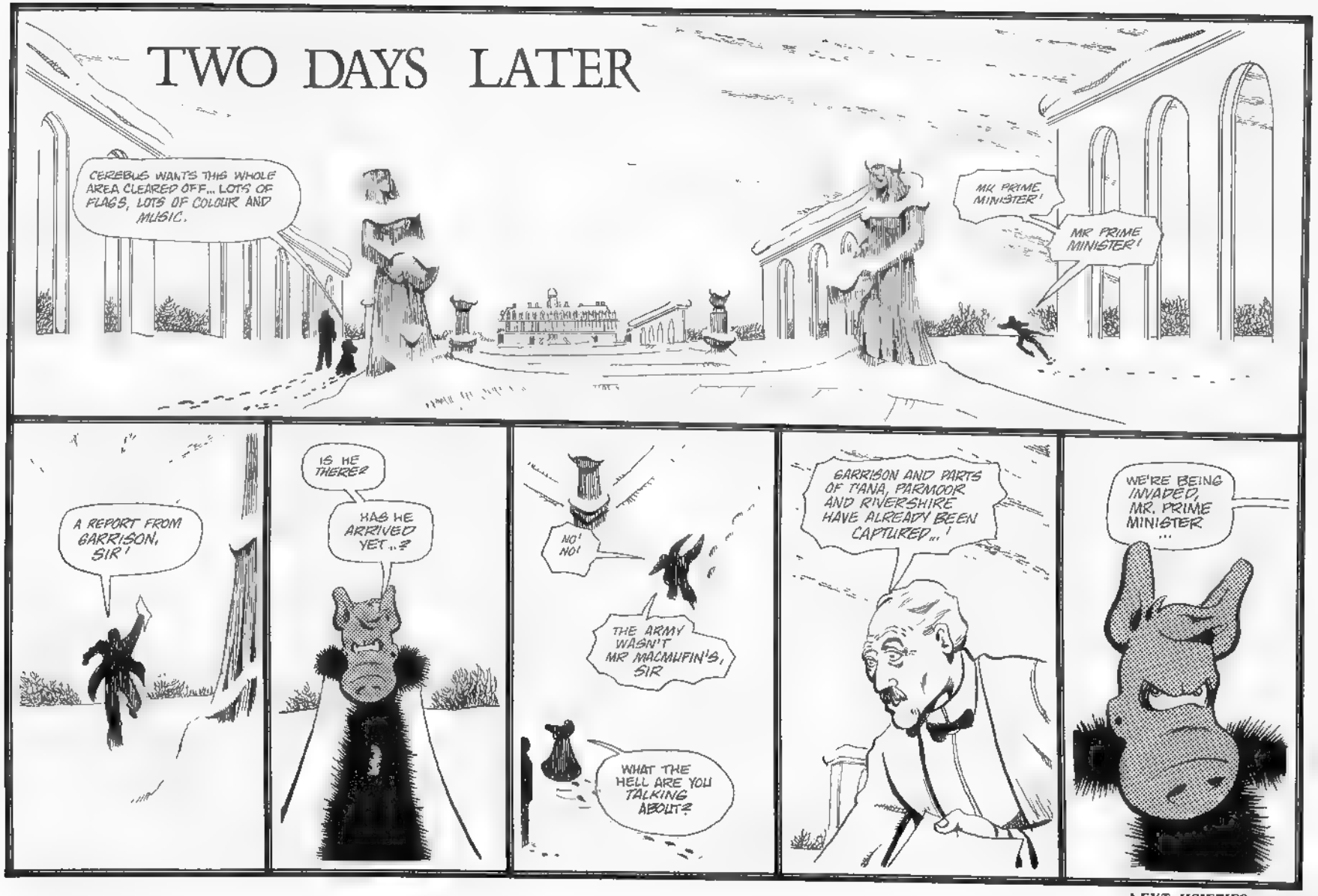
AS HE WANDERS BY THE PRIME MINISTER'S BEAUTIFUL BUT HIGHLY OVER-SEXED YOUNG SECRETARY SERGEANT PRESTON DECIDES TO GIVE HER A THRILL..
WHAT'S COOKING GOOD LOOKING?
"HE'S ALWAYS SO POISED" SHE SIGHS TO HERSELF "HE'S EVERY WOMAN'S DREAM .. BUT WHAT CHANCE DO I HAVE" POOR OVER-SEXED CHICK.
IDIOT
SERGEANT PRESTON CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE PRIME MINISTER'S FACE WHEN HE SEES THE BANK DIRECTOR'S SIGNED OATH OF LOYALTY...
OF ALL THE IDIOTIC!... SMASHING A CELL OF ANARCHO-ROMANTICS .. AS IF CEREBUS DIDN'T HAVE ENOUGH TROUBLE
SERGEANT PRESTON.. PRESTON -- WHY DOES THAT NAME RING A...
WHAT DO YOU WANT?
PERMISSION TO SEEK OUT AND APPREHEND THIS PRESTON PERSON, MR. PRIME MINISTER!
FINE! FINE! JUST MAKE SURE YOU
THINK OF SOMETHING, MR PRIME MINISTER?
JUST A CRAZY THOUGHT, BLAKELY...
FORGET IT..

I'M NOT KIDDIN'! DIS IS D MOST UPSET I EVUH SEEN D'BANK UF IEST... IF DIS "SAHJINT FRESTON" WAS LOAHD JULIUS'IDEA, IT WOIKED... HOWE WANTS Y'HEAD ONNAH SILVER...
ALLRIGHT! ALLRIGHT! WHAT DO YOU THINK WE SHOULD DO?
THEY'VE BEEN PUSHIN' F'R A DISCRETIONARY DISBURSEMENTS COUNCIL F'YEARS... A GROUP O BANKJUHS DAT WOULD DECIDE WHEN AN' HOW D'PROIME MINISTUH CAN SPEND PUBLIC FUNDS...
WHAT IF CEREBUS DOESN'T GO ALONG WITH THEM...?
IN O'CASE O'DAT EVENTOOALITY HAPPEN'IN' DEY INTEND T'PET'TION LOAHD JULIUS T'DEVAJOO D IESTAN CROWN RIGHT OUT O' EXISTENCE
SWELL
TELL THEM CEREBUS IS FORMING A COMMITEE TO STUDY....
HERE'S D'REPORT ...
TELL THEM CEREBUS WANTS TO CONSULT HIS ADVISORY COUNCIL ON ECONOMIC...
DEY ADVISE YOUSE T SAY "YES"
TELL THEM CEREBUS HAS A BLUE RIBBON PANEL HE WANTS TO...
DEY ADVISE Y'T'SAY "YES" ALSO ..
WHERE DOES CEREBUS SIGN?
RIGHT HERE ..

PINSHAW! COME IN! COME IN!
SO WE'RE HOLDING THEM AT THE PASS ARE WE?
WELL MR PRIME MINISTER, WE CERTAINLY GAVE THEM A GO. THE CASUALTY FIGURES WERE STAGGERING...
NO THAT'S ALL RIGHT. WE FIGURED WE MAY HAVE TO PULL BACK TO MANES AND PEREN YOU KNOW WHAT THEY SAY ABOUT A SECURE SPOT WHEN THE TIDE TURNS
EXACTLY MR PRIME MINISTER WHEN I THINK OF THE MANPOWER THEY EXPENDED RETAKING THOSE FORTS ..
WELL I'D SAY OUR BOYS DID US PROUD, SIR
DROVE US BACK ACROSS THE RIVER, DID THEY?
WE IN THE MILITARY PREFER TO CALL IT RETRENCHMENT... IF ONLY WE COULD'VE DUG IN A LITTLE DEEPER, WE...
WHAT, EXACTLY ARE YOU HERE FOR, PINSHAW?
ACCORDING TO THE TERMS OF SURRENDER MR. PRIME MINISTER, THEY'RE WILLING TO ACCEPT THE EASTERN FARM LANDS AND YOUR PERSONAL ASSURANCES THAT..
WHERE DOES CEREBUS SIGN?
RIGHT HERE.

AND SHOULD YOU CHOOSE TO IGNORE OUR "APPEAL" TO PLACE AN INDIVIDUAL CHOSEN BY THE ANARCHO-ROMANTICS' STEERING COMMITTEE IN THE POSITION VACATED BY MR MAC MURPH, WE SHALL BE FORCED TO TAKE EVEN MORE DRASTIC ACTION IN ALL DISTRICTS OF THE LOWER CITY...
...THIS, OF COURSE, IS IN ADDITION TO OUR "APPEAL" THAT YOU DISBAND THE NORTHERN IESTAN MOUNTED POLICE AND FIRE YOUR "SERGEANT PRESTON"
WHERE DOES CEREBUS SIGN...?
RIGHT HERE.

MR PRIME MINISTER ...?
WHERE DOES CEREBUS SIGN ?
'S NOTHING YOU HAVE TO SIGN, SIR, IT'S A MESSAGE FRO[redacted] GARRISON..
WHAT'S IT SAY?
AN ARMY MARCHING UNDER UNKNOWN COLOURS IS A DAY'S RIDE AWAY FROM GARRISON
COMMANDER LESLA REQUESTS YOUR INSTRUCTIONS
BRAN
HE MADE IT..!
TELL COMMANDER LESLA THAT MR MACMUFIN AND HIS ARMY ARE TO BE GIVEN A FULL MILITARY ESCORT ...
TELL HIM THEY ARE TO BE BROUGHT THROUGH THE PLAZA TO MY OFFICIAL RESIDENCE FOR MY OFFICIAL GREETINGS


TWO DAYS LATER
CEREBUS WANTS THIS WHOLE AREA CLEARED OFF... LOTS OF FLAGS, LOTS OF COLOUR AND MUSIC.
MR PRIME MINISTER!
MR PRIME MINISTER!
A REPORT FROM GARRISON, SIR!
IS HE THERE?
HAS HE ARRIVED YET..?
NO! NO!
THE ARMY WASN'T MR MACMUFIN'S, SIR
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
GARRISON AND PARTS OF T'ANA, PARMOOR AND RIVERSHIRE HAVE ALREADY BEEN CAPTURED...!
WE'RE BEING INVADED, MR. PRIME MINISTER ...

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A UNIQUE STORY

DICK MALLET

STORY: JOHN E. SECH; ART: MICHAEL CHERKAS
ADDITIONAL SCRIPTING: LARRY HANCOCK

OUR STORY SO FAR: ARTHUR WYNGATE WAS MORE UPSET AT BEING GOUGED FOR A MILLION BUCKS, THAN BY THE FACT THAT HIS DAUGHTER, LAURA, HAD BEEN KIDNAPPED!... HIS LOVE FOR THE KID SEEMED TO BE AS SMALL AS THE ADVANCE HE PAID ME TO FIND HER...

AFTER VISITING THE HEADMISTRESS AT LAURA'S PRIVATE SCHOOL, I LATCHED ONTO A STROKE OF LUCK AS HER BEST FRIENDS CLUED ME TO HER BOYFRIEND, BRIAN SOUTHWELL, AT A NEARBY COLLEGE... BUT HE WASN'T IN ANY MOOD TO TALK! ...INSTEAD, HIS FRIENDS USED ME AS A TACKLING DUMMY...

The Missing SCHOOLGIRL PART·2

RING!
THE STORY CONTINUES...
"MY OFFICE... EVEN AFTER GLORIA PATCHED ME UP, MY HEAD STILL FELT LIKE HAMBURGER FRESH FROM THE GRINDER! AND THE JANGLE OF THE PHONE DIDN'T HELP ANY!!
... ANOTHER NOTE FROM THE KIDNAPPERS, MR. WYNGATE?... ...HH-HHH.. I SEE!.... I'LL BE RIGHT OVER...
BUT, RICHARD, YOU CAN'T GO NOW!! YOU'RE STILL SO WOOZY! AND BESIDES, I JUST ORDERED YOU A NICE BOWL OF CHICKEN SOUP FROM MAMA ROSA'S!!
SORRY, GLORIA... THERE'S OTHER THINGS COOKIN'! THE CROOKS ARE GONNA CALL WYNGATE IN HALF-AN-HOUR WITH FINAL INSTRUCTIONS!
BUT RICHARD!

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"I HOT-TAILED IT OVER TO WYNGATE'S ESTATE...
MR. MALLET, SIR...
THAT'LL BE ALL, BENTLEY.
VERY PROMPT, MALLET! I LIKE THAT! BUT WILL YOU BE AS GOOD AT PROTECTING MY MONEY AND CATCHING THESE VERMIN AS YOU ARE AT KEEPING APPOINTMENTS?!
YOU'LL GET YOUR MONEY'S WORTH MR. WYNGATE.
RING
"WYNGATE ANSWERED THE PHONE... HIS FACE WAS ITS USUAL DEAD-PAN ALL THE TIME HE TALKED... THIS GUY HAD LESS EMOTIONS THAN ALL FOUR OF THOSE STONE FACES ON RUSHMORE!
THE SCUM WANT ME TO BRING THE MONEY TO THE END OF BLACK HOLLOW ROAD IN FORTY-FIVE MINUTES! CAN WE MAKE IT IN TIME?!
IT'LL BE CLOSE! ASK TO SPEAK TO LAURA!... ... IS SHE ALRIGHT?!
NO TIME FOR THAT! WE'VE GOT TO GET MOVING!!
O.K. MR. WYNGATE... BUT REMEMBER, WHEN WE GET THERE WE PLAY THINGS MY WAY!! NO GUNS!! WE GET YOUR DAUGHTER OUT OF THIS ALIVE AND DO OUR BEST TO CATCH THE CROOKS AS WELL!!
VERY WELL.
YOU DO THINGS YOUR WAY, MALLET, AND I'LL DO THINGS MY WAY! NO PETTY CROOKS ARE GOING TO EXTORT MONEY FROM ARTHUR WYNGATE AND LIVE TO TELL ABOUT IT!!...
VROOOOM!
"NIGHT FELL BEFORE WE REACHED THE WOODED AREA AT THE END OF BLACK HOLLOW ROAD...
THE SLIME IS HERE, MALLET! NOW KEEP YOUR HEAD DOWN BACK THERE!!
YOU'RE LATE WYNGATE!! THAT'LL COST YOU EVEN MORE OF YOUR PRECIOUS MONEY, NOW!!
2.

"AS WYNGATE SWAGGERED FORWARD TO CONFRONT THE CROOK, I SNEAKED A PEAK OUT THE WINDOW... SURE ENOUGH DESPITE THE MASK, I KNEW IT WAS BRIAN SOUTHWELL STANDING THERE...
YOU WON'T GET ANOTHER PENNY OUT OF ME YOU SCUM!! BE HAPPY WITH WHAT I HAVE HERE!
NOW REALLY, MR. WYNGATE! YOUR DAUGHTER SHOULD BE WORTH ANY PRICE TO YOU!! IF YOU CARE FOR HER THAT IS!
"AS WYNGATE HELD THE "KIDNAPPER'S" ATTENTION I INCHED OUT OF THE CAR AND SLOWLY STARTED WORKING MY WAY BEHIND THE BOYFRIEND...
"IT HADN'T BEEN HARD TO PIECE BRIAN'S LITTLE PLOT TOGETHER! RICH GIRLFRIEND. CUT OFF FROM HER FATHER IF SHE MARRIED HIM... HOW ELSE TO GET THE MONEY, BUT BY FAKING A KIDNAPPING!
"ONLY WHERE WAS LAURA?...
KRAK!
EH?
OH MY GOD NO!
THIS'LL TEACH YOU VERMIN TO TRY TO MAKE A FOOL OUT OF ARTHUR BATHURST CARLYLE WYNGATE!!
BLAM! BLAM! BLAM! BLAM!
AAUGHHH!!
STOP! YOU FOOL!! DON'T YOU SEE!!
"WYNGATE'S EYES GLEAMED AS HE PUNCTUATED HIS NAME WITH BLASTS FROM THE ROD IN HIS HAND...

OMYGOD!... OMYGOD OMYGOD OMYGOD...
"THE GLINT IN WYNGATE'S EYES BEGAN TO FADE AS HE REALISED...
"BRIAN PULLED THE MASK FROM LAURA'S HEAD...
:SOBS: LAURA KNEW YOU'D CUT HER OFF WITHOUT A CENT IF WE eLOPED! I DIDN'T CARE !!... I WOULD'VE QUIT SCHOOL AND GOTTEN A JOB...
... BUT SHE SAID YOU'D BE SO BITTER NOBODY'D HIRE ME!... ...AND :SOB:... AND I THINK YOUR MEANNESS RAN THROUGH HER TOO :SOB:... SHE WAS SO BITTER... SO-SO SHE CAME UP WITH THIS KIDNAPPING SCHEME...
...TO-TO MAKE YOU PAY FOR HURTING US... FOR HURTING HER!... TH-THE MONEY WAS TO HELP US...
... START A NEW...
...LIFE...
LAURA... ...OH LAURA!!
OH, GOD WHAT HAVE I DONE?!
"I TURNED BACK DOWN THE ROAD TO LOOK FOR A CAB, AND CALL HENDERSON AT HOMICIDE...
"WYNGATE GOT WHAT HE WANTED. HIS MONEY WAS SAFE AND THE KIDNAPPER'S HIDE WAS READY FOR NAILING TO THE BARNDOOR...
"... BUT THIS WAS ONE TIME THE RICH MR. WYNGATE WOULD'VE BEEN HAPPIER NOT GETTING WHAT HE WANTED!!
THE END.

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

You didn't think we'd miss an opportunity for an alternative comix group shot at the Now and Then Books Grand Opening Party, now did you? In the back row (just because they don't draw) are Richard Pini (bearded) and Deni Sim (not bearded). In the front row, left to right, P. Craig Russell (lightly bearded), Dave Sim (shapelessly bearded) and Michael (give me a "T") Gilbert (paste-on bearded)

Aardvark Vanaheim Photo by Robert W. Ringger

Dear Mrs. Sim

Three comments

(1) I'd like to see you publish a "My Impressions During Our Tour" article in one issue of Cerebus I'm sure you have a lot to say and that it would make interesting and enjoyable reading

(2) Michael Gilbert is sensational. Far and away the best of the artists who've had their work published in Cerebus. His second piece, the one with the man, daughter and dog, was like poetry. All the pieces were there but you still had to figure out the story, and two different readers could give two different interpretations

(3) Your fan club I got disturbed when I saw a full page ad for the Cerebus fan club in one of your issues I've been a member of this club since it started. So far this year I received one mailing for spring, 1982 Nothing afterwards When I met you here in New York you said you were having problems getting fan club material out on time. The year is now drawing to a close and I've yet to receive the second of the four annual fan club mailings How can you advertise membership in the club when you, or the guy running it in California, or both of you, are unable to fulfill your side of the bargain. Hope you don't mind me being a little annoyed. What gives with the fan club anyway? Keep up the great work. I wish you

CEREBUS ORIGINAL ART

That s right I m st ll selling Cerebus original artwork $100 per page Issues 30 through 35 are pretty well picked over but everyone s taste is different it seems there have been very few mult p e orders for sing e pages (the possible exception being the wee wees in the sink page which I cou d have sold six t mes over) Everyone who has nc uded alternate selections has ended up with noth ng ower than the second choice on the r list Certif ed cheques or money orders Payable to Aardvark Vanaheim Makes the idea Christmas gift Orders shipped within a week (now that Deni has he p in the office) I reserve the right to re,ect d scounts for quantity orders but I also reserve the right to let my greed get the better of me Make me an offer

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

continued success with Cerebus and your other projects

Larry Adler
324 East 74th Street
New York N.Y., 10021

(1) We are expecting to release a special "Tour Impressions" article in the upcoming Cerebus Collector (which we have decided to do as a semi regular publication in a comic book rather than trade paperback format)

(2) We quite agree with your enthusiasm about Michael T's work. I hope to be able to do a Cerebus/Wraith cross-over with him someday

(3) Fred Patten was forced to give up the Fan Club because of some other commitments. Steve Hendricks will be getting caught up as soon as he can get a newsletter issue assembled from the material on hand and mailed out. Anyone who doesn't wish to renew their membership will still receive all newsletters and premiums for the balance owing them We'll let you know more when we hear from Steve.

Dear Friends,

Now at last it can be told!

THE ORIGIN OF CEREBUS

Back in the early seventies when I was freelancing for Richard Comely, I used to bemoan the fact that Canadians had no cultural base to draw from in terms of a creative spirit. Our American friends to the south had the pulps, the golden age comics, EC's, tons of science fiction/fantasy/mystery digests, radio and movie serials, movies, television and we had Mounties and a railway! For the oldtimers that remember, we did have the Canadian whites, comic books with color covers but black and white interiors Cerebus the comicbook carries on this proud tradition once more

There was one Canadian cultural tradition that should not be overlooked by future scholars and historians, and that was Bugs Bunny cartoons rerun endlessly at 5 00 P M every Saturday on the CBC. Initially this seemed to have had no visible effect of those children that grew up with this event, beside the fact that almost every one of them can sing the theme from the Bugs Bunny show better than their own national anthem!

The second greatest effect this television show has produced has been the strange mutation characters therein have undergone inside the mind of Dave Sim One of the most obvious has been the transformation of Foghorn Leghorn into Elrod The speech has undergone a subtle shift Foghorn Leghorn was a white chicken, rooster that is Elric was an albino swordsman Elrod is a cowardly albino swordsman who talks like Foghorn Leghorn A big white chicken? Albino, white, chicken. get it? It's a joke son! Look at me when I'm talkin' at ya!

Dirty Drew and Dirty Fleagle although Yosemite

Pictured at right is Bellaire Michigan's Ron Langs; winner of the "Win a Diamondback Tournament with Cerebus Christmas Morning" contest. Our intrepid aardvark looks on, unconvinced, as Ron tries to explain how he won with four priestesses.

Cerebus toy and Ron by Ron's Mom

AARDVARK COMMENT

P.O. BOX 1674, STATION 'C', KITCHENER, ONTARIO N2G 4R2

Sam clones in life size also owe a debt to the newspaper strip Tumbleweeds for their existence. That's right, Snake-Eyes and his younger baby brother Snooky. Superimpose Yosemite Sam on these two characters and you get the McGrew brothers.

Thus we come to our star, a short grey animal with long ears. You guessed it! Cerebus is none other than Bugs Bunny! If you don't believe me look over the last 45 issues of Cerebus noting the expressions on his face and the angle of his ears. Gotcha!

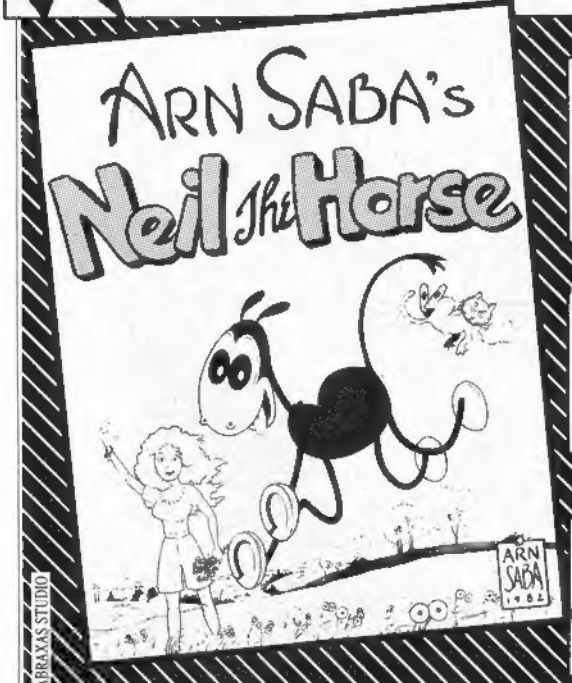
Fathoming profound things in Alberta,

Laurence W. Matishak
No. 203, 4912 - 54 Street
Red Deer, Alberta
T4N 2G8

I don't think that was the "Origin of Cerebus" everyone's been waiting for, Laurence, but I guess it'll do until a real one comes along.

Sketch from Grand Opening Party for Now & Then Books. Courtesy of Dave Sim (pencils) and Michael T. Gilbert (inks).

Aardvark-Vanaheim *presents its first mini-series...*



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CEREBUS INVADES THE COMIC INFORMER IN MARCH!

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In the wake of all the Dave Sim interviews suddenly popping up everywhere, comes the one that was found, lost, then found again from within the depths of Canada itself.

***Also in the Eighth issue of the* Comic Informer:**

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And thats only the beginning! So look for *Comic Informer* No. 8, on sale in March at fine dealers everywhere or send $1.95 plus .50¢ to cover postage and handling to:

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